

The Progressive Farmer.L. L. POLK, ———— EDITOR.
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RALEIGH, N. C., DEC. 8, 1887.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance.

PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

SUBSCRIBERS, READ THIS.

Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY-SIDE.

"Old friends and old times," dear to the heart and memory of every true man. Time and fate have separated us, but the fond associations and cherished recollections which cluster so lovingly around the scenes of our boyhood days crowded upon us as we received the warm grasp of welcome and friendship among our old friends in Wadesboro last week. Old Anson, noble old Anson! Thy fair bosom was left bare and bleeding by the war-wave of desolation which twenty-three years of devoted toil has not healed, but thou art glorious still, in the majesty of thy storm-torn strength! A most grateful acknowledgement to our friends, old comrades and school-mates who met us with such kindly cheer and greeting, and a tear to the memory of those who have crossed over the River.

SILER CITY FAIR.

Associated effort is the great propelling power which is driving the world onward with such bewildering speed. Three years ago a blacksmith shop and one little store stood where now the thriving and prosperous little town of Siler greets the eye of the traveller on the C. F. & Y. V. R. R. Six weeks ago an agricultural fair at this little town had not been heard of. But some of the more progressive and enterprising of the citizens took the initiative, and it was accomplished. It was truly and really an agricultural fair. The management excluded the "wheels of fortune," the fakies, the gamblers and all manner of money traps, and made it an agricultural fair. It was a success in every respect. The cereals and other agricultural products, for variety and excellence, we have not seen excelled at any of our fairs. The ladies' department was highly creditable. Alpine Cotton and Woollen Mills, of Mt. Airy, had a magnificent display of beautiful cassimers, blankets and fancy yarns. We saw a fine display of excellent home-tanned leather, and some elegant chairs from the Thomasville factory. Surry, Guilford, Randolph, Davidson, Alamance, Chatham, Moore and Cumberland contributed to the exhibition.

The friends and management presented to the Secretary, Mr. E. R. McLean, a very handsome gold-headed cane, in recognition of his faithful and efficient services, and which, all agreed, had contributed so much to the success of the occasion. Prof. Thompson has a fine school—132 students, and he is heartily sustained by the citizens of the town and the community—as he ought and deserves to be. He is doing a grand work for the youth who are fortunate enough to be under his charge. We were particularly gratified to find him with a splendid building adapted to the comfort and convenience of his large school. His cadets drill well and behave well and are alike a credit to his school and to the community. We left Siler impressed with its wide-awake go-ahead-iveness, and expect in the years to come that it will have one of the most attractive fairs in the State.

VANCE COUNTY FARMERS.

From Wake to Anson, from Anson to Chatham, from Chatham to Vance—almost without sleep and without rest, we step off the train into a lively crowd of lively farmers. The meeting was good. It was lively and brim-full of earnest interest. It was called to determine what form of organization the farmers of Vance would adopt. They were determined to organize. They listened eagerly to an explanation of the principles and purposes of the Farmers' Alliance, and after a thorough investigation asked that organizers be sent at once to Vance county. We have great faith in the farmers of that stirring little county, and predict that they will, at once, step prominently forward in the noble work of the Alliance. They heard some ringing speeches and pointed truths from Col. Burgwyn, Mr. Dunn, L. Otho Wilson and others. They passed a resolution appointing a strong delegation to represent their county in the Farmers' Convention at Greensboro. This noble people have no voice in our legislature, but they can and will be heard in the Farmers' Council.

Not the least among the many kindnesses shown us by our good friends during the week, was the presentation of a list of ninety-six annual subscribers to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, for which we are profoundly grateful.

GREENSBORO CONVENTION.

Read the call of Mr. Elias Carr, President of the N. C. Farmers' Association. Let the farmers of every county call a meeting and select a goodly number of delegates to represent their county. Wherever there are Farmers' Clubs or Granges or Alliances, let them see to it that their county is well represented. There is a great ground-swell among the farmers of the land, in favor of associated effort—in favor of combined action, because we can no longer afford to put it off. Let the Greensboro Convention be a truly representative body of the live, progressive farmers of our State.

We are glad to see that quite a number of counties have already held meetings and appointed their delegates. Let us hear from others.

Read President Elias Carr's call to the farmers of the State, and call a meeting at once and elect your delegates.

CONVICT LABOR.

This subject is being more and more discussed. We are gratified to see it. Let it be agitated. Good will result from a fair and candid discussion. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, from its very first issue, has protested against giving away this labor to any man or men. It believes, and it has contended, and it will continue to contend, that whoever gets this labor should be made to pay a fair price for it. It demands it on behalf of the taxpayers of the State. We believe that the

most equitable, satisfactory and remunerative disposition that could be made of it is to employ it on the public roads of the State.

Round trip tickets to the Greensboro Convention may be had at all stations on our railroads to the Greensboro Convention, and at reduced rates.

A LETTER FROM CAPT. S. B. ALEXANDER ABOUT THE "ALLIANCE."CHARLOTTE, N. C., Nov. 28, '87.
Editors Democrat: The article entitled "A New Scheme—Something about the Farmers' Alliance in Georgia"—Trouble brewing—copied from the Atlanta Constitution in your issue of Nov. 25th, does the Farmers' Alliance gross injustice. It is a tissue of misrepresentations of the aims and purposes of the order, and shows upon its face that it was written by some person who, with hostile intent, struck blindly at an order he knew nothing about.

The Farmers' Alliance is not a political organization—Republicans and Democrats belong to it in every State where it has organized. It wages no war with any other profession or trade, nor are the members liable in any manner for the debts of other members. The misrepresentations are so numerous, I will not attempt to comment upon them, but will be content by setting forth the purposes of the order, for the benefit of your readers.

Purposes of Farmers' Alliance.—To encourage education among the agricultural and laboring classes, and elevate to higher manhood and womanhood, those who bear the burdens of productive industry.

To break up, by frequent meetings, the isolated habits of farmers, improve their social condition, increase their pleasure and strengthen their confidence in, and friendship for each other.

To make the study and improvement of practical agriculture in all its branches a part of the Alliance mission, that its standards may be raised, its profits increased, and its followers made more prosperous and contented.

To encourage the study of the laws of business and trade, the best methods of buying and selling, and the transaction of all kinds of business it may be found desirable for farmers and laborers to engage in, and under all circumstances shall discourage the credit system.

To attend to its own business affairs in its own way, and make no fight against any legitimate business, but shall oppose methods found to be contrary to justice and equity.

To encourage the settling of all disputes among neighbors by arbitration. To encourage farmers to put their savings in manufactures—not only for profit, but to create a home market for farm products.

The above is the ground work upon which the Alliance rests. It desires only good men, rather than numbers. Dishonesty is a cause of expulsion, and to be a good Alliance member is to be a good citizen.

Very respectfully,
S. B. ALEXANDER,
President N. C. Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union.

The above from President Alexander appeared in the Charlotte Democrat of the 2d inst., and the following parenthetical note was appended to it by the editor of that paper:

"The objects of the 'Alliance,' as stated by Capt. Alexander, are worthy and all right, but why should the meetings of the Alliance be secret?"

We answer, for the very same reasons that the meetings of the directors of banks are secret. For the very same reasons that the meetings of cotton exchanges, tobacco exchanges, meetings of the managers of railroads, and all other business enterprises, are secret. The farmers have the same right to have their business plans and methods among themselves as any other class of our citizens. This may appear presumptuous to some, but nevertheless, it is a living fact. The farmers are organizing and adopting just such measures for their protection as have been adopted by every other class and every other interest in this country. If it be right, if it be the proper thing for a cotton or tobacco exchange, or a merchant's exchange or a railroad or a mercantile firm, or the boot-blacks, or the barbers, or the mechanics, or the physicians, or

the lawyers, or any other class or interest to hold secret meetings to protect and advance their interests, why should the right of the farmers to do the same thing be questioned? Why should not the farmers have the same rights to protect and promote their interests that other classes have, and why can they not adopt the same methods? Has the Democrat ever questioned the right of the above classes to hold their meetings "in secret?" The Farmers' Alliance proclaims openly and boldly its aims, purposes and principles, but it has learned a lesson from these other classes, and it proposes to do just as all these other classes do—manage its own business in its own way.

The hotels and boarding houses of Greensboro have agreed to entertain the delegates to the Farmers' Convention at very moderate rates. Let everybody go.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

THE STATE CHEMIST.

The farmers of the State are deeply interested in the selection of a successor to Dr. Dabney. They regret to see so little of the matter in the public press. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has spoken wisely and uttered a word of warning to the Board of Agriculture. And we find the following out-spoken article in the Charlotte Chronicle:

"The time is approaching for the election of a successor to Dr. Dabney as State Chemist. The names of Drs. Battle and Haigh have been mentioned in the press of the State as suitable persons to fill the office. These are young men, too young, it occurs to THE Chronicle, to entrust with such important matters of public interest as pertain to this position. We do not for a moment question their fidelity, their opportunities, their assiduity in the pursuit of the very studies which ought naturally to fit them for discharging many of the duties of the office. But conceding their practical ability to analyze water, soils, fertilizers and so on, there are many other things which the Director of the State Experiment Station must know how to perform in order to make the department acceptable and useful to the State. A practical knowledge of men and business methods, which can be learned, save in exceptional cases, only in the severe school of experience, is a necessity in our judgment. There is much empty sentimentalism in the papers in this connection about selecting a North Carolinian to fill the office. Other things being equal, we concur with those who hold that a State man should be elected. But let us be sure that other things are equal. Going about finding a man to fill the office were it a private enterprise, we would naturally lose sight of county and State lines and select the best man we could find. Let the electors in the discharge of their duty, select for this important position the best man they can find. That is what the people want. The election of young college graduates who are little experienced in public matters and lack that power which comes from attrition with men in public life will work a loss of confidence in the station and probably endanger its existence."—Charlotte Chronicle.

We can only say that the Board itself is on trial. If it makes a mistake on this vital point the whole department goes. Let there be no more "combines;" no more policy work; no personal favoritism; but only duty to the State and to the

STRUGGLING FARMER.

Our STATE EXCHANGES will confer a favor on the farmers of the State if they will kindly copy the notice of President Elias Carr in this issue.

FARM NOTES AND PROSPECTS.

Farm papers and farm people are wonderfully active. Farmeralliances, farmer clubs, farmer granges, farmer institutes, and farmer wheels, are forming all over the country and for all sorts of purposes.

So, too, the agricultural papers are all alive. They team with plans and suggestions for industrial progress, for protection to farm interests, and for the improvement of farm life. The Atlanta Cultivator publishes the addresses delivered at the late Interstate Farmers' Convention, and these speeches pretty well agree on one thing; that the main cause of our depressed

agriculture lies in this—ignorance and idleness.

Per contro, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER at Raleigh has the very able report of the Southern Farmer, Alliance at Shreveport, La., which discloses the fact that the low price of cotton is owing to the "import duty of 60 per cent. on cotton cloth." And it comes in this way: Two-thirds of the cotton crop goes abroad, mainly to England. On the other hand this tax of 60 per cent. on cotton cloth prevents England from shipping it back here, and stimulates her to renewed efforts to lower the price of American cotton—(1) by encouraging its growth elsewhere, and (2) by a gigantic combination to buy it up and then fix its market price. The remedies are (1) the establishment of Southern cotton factories for the home consumption of the raw material, and the Alliance is doing this; (2) the repeal or modification of this import tax, so as to extend the demand for cotton goods and thus enlarge the demand for export cotton. Through this increased demand abroad, and the enlarged consumption at home, the poor farmer and struggling planter may find relief.

But (3) after all, the main relief must come from all classes at the South, working harder and more skillfully, raising more home supplies, living more economically, and educating children in manual training.

It is plain to see that all this energy and enterprise on the part of the farmers and planters is bound to succeed, and that ere long the great agricultural interests of the South must prosper.

We would especially beg all interested in this question to secure and study the masterly report of the Alliance Convention. It bids fair to solve the industrial and business problems.—Daily Hornet.

Let every farmer who reads this paper interest himself and see that his county is represented in the Farmers' Convention at Greensboro on the 2nd Wednesday in January.

WE WANT A "NEW-YEARS GIFT."

Will not each reader of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER send us a new subscriber by the first of January as a "New-Years Gift?" Every one can do this. Will you not try? We have one thousand subscribers who could easily send us five new subscribers each, by that time. We have five hundred subscribers who could easily send us ten new subscribers by that time. Will you not do it? This would add ten thousand to our list. How our heart would go out in gratitude to our friends! It would place the paper on an independent basis, and we hereby pledge ourselves that we will give to our farmers the best agricultural weekly ever published in the South, if they will thus come to our aid. Will you not send us ten? Will you not send us five? Will you not send us one?

A PROPOSITION.

To the one who shall send us by the first of January the largest list of subscribers, according to our published club rates, we will send a Patch Corn Sheller.

It is simple, light and durable and will shell eight to ten bushels per hour. Shells easily and clean and separates the cobs from the corn. As fast as you procure the names of five subscribers, send them in with the money and notify us with the first remittance to enter you for this useful premium. If you do not want the premium, send us a list for the good will have for the paper and the great cause it represents. Will you not make an effort to strengthen your own paper and thus strengthen the farmers' cause in North Carolina?

We learn that a number of the farmers of the Piedmont counties intend to attend the Convention in Greensboro, and will come in their wagons and camp out. A good idea.

TO THE SUBORDINATE ALLIANCES OF JOHNSTON CO.

A meeting will be held in the town of Clayton on Saturday, the 17th inst., for the purpose of organizing a County Alliance. Each sub-Alliance is entitled to one delegate for each ten members or fractional part thereof, with its standing and special committees. Let each Alliance take action at once to be properly represented in this meeting. The meeting will be called to order promptly at 11 o'clock.

C. E. McCULLERS,
Deputy Organizer.